

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of regenerating a lowered oxygen binding ability of a hemoglobin-vesicle suspension to be used as an oxygen infusion, comprising:

using, as a hemoglobin-vesicle, a phospholipid vesicle which contains the aqueous hemoglobin solution therein and an electron donor in an inner aqueous phase thereof; and

irradiating the ~~dispersion solution~~ suspension with light when hemoglobin contained in the vesicle is oxidized into methemoglobin and lose its oxygen binding ability, thereby reducing methemoglobin into hemoglobin to regenerate the oxygen binding ability.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said electron donor is selected from the group consisting of amino acids, saccharides, alcohols and flavin derivatives.

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Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus for carrying out the method according to claim 1, comprising:

blood collecting means for taking blood out of a living body, after the hemoglobin-vesicle defined in claim 1 is intravenously administered to the living body and the oxygen-binding ability of the vesicle is lowered by generation of methemoglobin;

isolation means for isolating the hemoglobin-vesicle from the blood obtained by the blood collecting means;

means for irradiating the vesicle with light in order to regenerate the oxygen-binding ability of the hemoglobin-vesicle separated; and

means for returning the hemoglobin-vesicle which has regenerated its oxygen-binding ability into the living body.

Claim 4 (New): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
removing oxygen from the hemoglobin-vesicle suspension prior to the irradiating  
step.

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Claim 5 (New): The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:  
oxygen removing means for removing oxygen from the vesicle isolated from the  
blood.